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UNITED STATES PLANT PATENT APPLICATION

of

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for

EUPATORIUM PLANT NAMED 'LITTLE JOE'

BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Eupatorium dubium/Eupatorium Plant

VARIETAL DENOMINATION

cv. 'Little Joe'

Summary of the Invention

The new *Eupatorium dubium* plant was discovered while growing among a population of seedlings of this species in a nursery setting at Jennersville, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The exact parentage of the new variety is unknown. I was primarily initially attracted to a single plant of the new variety in view of its more compact upright growth habit and more compact inflorescence. The single plant of the new variety was carefully preserved and evaluated. Had this plant not been discovered and preserved it would have been lost to mankind.

It was found that the new *Eupatorium dubium* plant of the present invention exhibits the following combination of characteristics:

- (a) forms a stiffer more upright and more compact growth habit,
- (b) displays an attractive more compact light lavender inflorescence, and
- (c) displays greater drought tolerance.

The new variety of the present invention can be readily distinguished from other plants of the species in view of the distinctive combination of characteristics described herein.

The new variety well meets the needs of the horticultural industry. It is particularly well suited for providing attractive ornamentation in smaller landscapes, and for growing in areas that experience diminished rainfall.

The new variety has been found to undergo asexual propagation at West Grove, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. by division and by the use of cuttings. Asexual reproduction by these routes in Pennsylvania has shown that the combination of characteristics is firmly fixed and is strictly transmitted to subsequent generations.

The new variety has been named 'Little Joe'.

Brief Description of the Photographs

The accompanying photographs show as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this character typical specimens of the plant and plant parts of the new variety. The plants of the new variety were three years of age and were photographed during August and September 2003 while growing in the ground at Jennersville, Pennsylvania. Dimensions in centimeters are included at the bottom of FIGS. 3 and 4.

FIG. 1 illustrates an overall plant while blossoming in which the stiff upright and compact growth habit is displayed.

FIG. 2 illustrates a closer view of the generally compact inflorescence.

FIG. 3 illustrates a section of a typical stem while bearing leaves.

FIG. 4 illustrates an obverse view of a typical leaf.

Detailed Description

The chart used in the identification of colors is that of The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S. Colour Chart). General color terms are accorded their customary dictionary significance. The description is based upon the observation of a typical three-year-old plant of the new variety during August and September 2003 while growing in the ground at Jennersville, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

PLANT:

<i>type</i>	--	herbaceous perennial.
<i>height</i>	--	typically approximately 100 to 120 cm on average at the end of the growing season.
<i>width</i>	--	typically approximately 90 to 100 cm on average at the end of the growing season.
<i>growth habit</i>	--	stiff, upright and compact from a relatively slow growing clump.

STEMS:	<i>color</i>	--	base coloration of mature stems commonly is near Green Group 143A and Yellow-Green Group 144B with
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spots of anthocyanin coloration near
 Purple Group 79B with some Purple
 Group 77A, 79A, and 79C, as well as
 Violet Group 83C.

FOLIAGE:	<i>general appearance</i>	--	medium to dark green and semi-glossy.
	<i>arrangement</i>	--	verticillate, sometimes 3 and more typically 4 leaves at a node.
	<i>petioles</i>	--	typically approximately 4 to 11 mm in length, and approximately 1.3 to 1.8 mm in width measured at the base of the leaf blade.
	<i>leaves</i>	--	<i>type</i> : simple.
		--	<i>shape</i> : typically lanceolate to occasionally narrowly ovate.
		--	<i>apex</i> : narrowly acute.
		--	<i>base</i> : narrowly cuneate.
		--	<i>texture</i> : very rugose on the upper surface, papyraceous, and somewhat stiff.
		--	<i>size</i> : varies somewhat with the season and water availability during growth.

Commonly a mature leaf is
approximately 5 to 13 cm (averages
approximately 10 cm) in length, and
approximately 2 to 6 cm (averages
approximately 4.5 cm) in width.

-- *venation*: triple-veined with an elongate
pair of basal lateral veins that is typical
of the species.

-- *color*: near Green Group 137A on the
upper surface, and near Green Group
137C on the under surface with midrib
vein of near Green Group 138D.

INFLORESCENCE:

Type -- small discoid heads in a compound
corymbiform inflorescence with perfect
florets.

Buds -- *color*: prior to opening near Red-Purple
Group 62B with some Red-Purple
Group 62A, 65A, and 73C.

<i>Flowers</i>	--	<i>color:</i> much of the effective coloration is attributable to the visible nature of the extended styles and stigmas.
<i>Styles</i>	--	near Red-Purple Group 62C in coloration.
<i>Stigmas</i>	--	near Red-Purple Group 73C at the tip prior to the separation of the stigmatic tip, and thereafter near Red-Purple Group 62B.

DEVELOPMENT:

<i>Blooming</i>	--	typically in August and continuing for approximately two to three weeks.
<i>Hardiness</i>	--	has withstood -20°F.
<i>Drought Tolerance</i>	--	superior to that commonly displayed by the species.